

REMARKS

In the October 7, 2004, first Office Action in this application, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (hereinafter "the Office") rejected Claims 1, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,273,371, issued to Hudziak (hereinafter "Hudziak"). Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of Hudziak, and furthermore, in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 2,370,596, issued to Wallace. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of Hudziak, and furthermore, in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 4,626,294, issued to Sanders. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of Hudziak, and furthermore, in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,293,807, issued to Hajdu. Claims 11, 12, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of Hudziak.

Applicant appreciates an indication of allowability of Claims 2-5, 13, 15, and 16 if they were to be rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without admitting to the propriety of Examiner's rejections and objections, applicant has canceled rejected Claims 1, 6-12, and 14, without prejudice and disclaimer. As suggested by the Examiner, Claims 2-5, 13, 15, and 16 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitation of Claim 2.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicant requests entry of the amendments, reconsideration, and allowance of all claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}



D.C. Peter Chu
Registration No. 41,676
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1636

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: January 7, 2005

Cindy A. Morton

DPC/ECP:cg/clm

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100